



Met Office Board

Summary

23 March 2016

- Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2016 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- Rob Varley (Chief Executive) delivered his report and the Board noted a number of points, including the latest position on the Business Performance Measures, and successes from the previous financial year.
- The Board noted a number of points, including: the Met Office's ranking as one of the top two National Meteorological Services (NMSs) globally; year-on-year improvements in forecast model performance; new services provided through the UK Government's BIS Newton Fund and DFID WISER programmes; development of new multi-year service agreements with MoD and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; challenges in the Oil & Gas and renewables sectors; a very successful year in terms of public reach and engagement (including the 'Name our Storms' pilot and new App); successful delivery of all sustainability and outreach targets; and a number of awards.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) gave an update on delivery of the final phase of the new High Performance Computing (HPC) facility, and the Board gave its congratulations on delivering the first two phases ahead of schedule and within budget.
- Nick Jobling presented the financial report and summarised the latest 2016/17 budget position.
- The Board discussed the developing Corporate Plan, and noted a delay in the planning process, owing mainly to uncertainties in funding settlements following the Comprehensive Spending Review.
- Steve Noyes (Operations and Services Director) gave an update on the developing Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) programme.
- The Board discussed the T&E programme plan, including aspects relating to timelines for delivery, leadership of the programme, benefits and risks, and the Target Operating Model.
- The Board discussed the future funding of the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme (HCCP) and related options to protect the national climate science capability.
- The Board discussed issues related to pay and resourcing.
- Huw Davies (Chair of the independent Met Office Science Advisory Committee) gave an overview of the Committee's annual report and the Board noted a number of points, including: progress of science developments and new initiatives; the quality of Met Office research; the committee's praise for model upgrades; implementation, and technical excellence, of the new HPC; and the importance of high resolution modelling capability.
- Julia Slingo (Chief Scientist) gave an overview of the UK Government's National Flood Resilience Review (NFRR) and the Board noted the Met Office's role in working with the Environment Agency in using innovative and world-leading science to consider plausible extreme rainfall scenarios to underpin the 'stress testing' of the nation's resilience to flood risk.
- The Board gave its grateful thanks to Paul Rew (Non-Executive Director) for his service as he stood down from the Board.
- Next meeting to be held on 24 May 2016.